

## **Charlestown Heritage Commission Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, August 24, 2010, 7:00 pm**

**Bakery Building, Main Street, Charlestown, NH**

**Present: Wesley Van Velsor, Eric Lutz, Barbara Jones, Joyce Higgins, Terry Spilsbury, Aare Ilves (Alternate)**

**Absent: Carol Clark**

**The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Chairperson Wesley Van Velsor**

- 1. Minutes of the July 27, 2010 meeting were approved unanimously.**
- 2. Aare Ilves presented the financial report, including a new column showing money held in escrow from pre-purchases of the 3<sup>rd</sup> History book. Two additional book deposits, totaling \$60, were turned over to Aare. Aare then sought approval of two expenditures related to the pair of new Historic District signs in the amounts of \$950.00 and \$282.47, both of which were approved. After discussion regarding the deficit position these expenses would cause to the Commission's general account, Aare suggested that \$248.02 could be loaned from the Tree Committee until additional funds become available in the new year; this borrowing was moved by Eric Lutz, seconded by Joyce Higgins, and unanimously approved. Wesley Van Velsor noted that we should anticipate another \$200 +/- for sign posts.**
- 3. Joyce Higgins reported progress on the 3<sup>rd</sup> History project, including many genealogies and new articles. She illustrated the challenge of developing story details and fact-checking in a discussion of the town's historic bells. Effort is still required to recruit additional writers to take on more topics.**
- 4. Wesley Van Velsor reported that the signs marking the north and south ends of the Main Street historic district will be completed by September 7<sup>th</sup>. He praised the beautiful job resulting from the use of excellent material as well as the craftsmanship and artistry of our sign-maker, Dennis Tier. A discussion followed to plan a dedication ceremony for Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 5:30 pm, at the sight of the north sign, to which the Select-board, Garden Club, sign-maker, and Press would be invited. Terry Spilsbury agreed to enlist the Boy Scouts of Troop 31 to work with Eric Lutz on Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup> to dig holes and plant the sign-posts.**
- 5. Barbara Jones updated members about activity at Fort #4, including an open house over Labor Day weekend and an October weekend event.**

Joyce added that the Historic Society will have their monthly meeting there on Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, featuring a demonstration of hearth cooking.

6. Barbara wrote an article for “Our Town” about the Town’s civil war cannon, submitted with a photo of it being fired at the Fort in 1989. For the October issue, an article will feature installation of the new historic district signs.
7. New Business issues:
  - a. Wes sent letters of thanks to three individuals who greatly assisted the Commission’s presence in the Old Home Days parade: Robert Graves (oxen owner), Siana Surles (oxen handler, together with a \$50 gift), and Jay Fisher (horse and wagon owner).
  - b. The State fuel pumping station on Route 12 just north of the historic district is nearly completed and the general sense is that it is not as bad looking as feared and appears to have been well executed despite being out of character with the setting. It was noted that the State is exempt from Town and Planning Board review, so given that they were free to do as they chose, we may feel somewhat relieved.
  - c. Wes reported that the Fire Department appears to have decided that they will house the cannon and wonders whether they are treating the matter as a fait accompli. It was the sense of the members present that criteria for determining where and in what manner to display the cannon should properly go beyond “visibility” and “security” and include also “aesthetics” and “historical context”, as to which there does not seem to have been any serious discussion to date. It was suggested that the Commission draft a letter to the Select-Board asking that the process be open, involve public hearing, and involve a panel of individuals representing diverse interests to review several alternative sites and make appropriate recommendations that would account at least for these four criteria.
  - d. After discussing the concept of reinstalling park benches along the Main Street side-walks, which centered on design and style ideas prompted in part by several photos brought in by Joyce, it was agreed that this might make a key project worth devoting significant Commission funds for 2011 and that discussion should continue within the Commission and with other interested groups such as the Tree Committee, Women’s Club and Boy Scout Troop 31.

**The Commission's next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 28, 7:00 pm, at the Bakery Building. The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 pm.**

**Approved minutes, respectfully submitted by Terry Spilsbury (substituting for Secretary, Carol Clark)**